

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed February 27, 2007.

Claims 1-26 remain pending in the application and claims 1-5, 10, 13, 14, 17, and 19-26 stand rejected. Claim 14 was objected to, and claims 6-9, 11, 12, 15, 16, and 18 were withdrawn from consideration in view of a restriction requirement.

Applicants thank the Examiner, David C. Reese, for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative, David W. Dorton, during the personal interview conducted March 30, 2007. During the interview, independent claim 1 was discussed with respect to U.S. Patent No. 4,737,059 to Batten and U.S. Patent No. 6,162,234 to Freedland et al. The Examiner suggested amending claim 1 to recite that the collet member and compression ring have complimentary ribs/peaks and valleys, and that these complimentary peaks and valleys fit within one another in a released position of the fastener system. Claim 1 has been amended as suggested during the personal interview. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claims Rejected

Claims 1-5, 17, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,737,059 to Batten. Claims 1-5, 10, 13, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,162,234 to Feedland et al. Claims 19-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Batten '059 or Freedland '234. Claims 1 and 26 are the only

independent claims of this rejected group. Claim 1 has been amended as suggested during the March 30 interview. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 based on Batten '059 or Freedland '234 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-5, 10, 13, 17, and 19-25 each depend from independent claim 1 and are therefore in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 2-5, 10, 13, 17, and 19-25 also be withdrawn.

Claim 26 is directed to a linear fastener system wherein a collet member and a compression ring have corresponding peaks and valleys, and wherein the peaks of the collet member are disposed in the valleys of the compression ring in an unlocked condition of the linear fastener system. Applicants note that this language corresponds to the language the Examiner suggested during the personal interview on March 30, 2007. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 26 is in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the rejection of claim 26 based on Batten '059 and Freedland '234 be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 14 was objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 14 has been rewritten in independent form by this Amendment. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claim 14 be withdrawn.

Withdrawn Claims

Claims 6-9, 11, 12, 15, 16, and 18 were withdrawn from consideration as non-elected species. Upon allowance of generic claim 1, Applicants respectfully request that claims 6-9, 11, 12, 15, 16, and 18 be examined.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and the remarks set forth herein, Applicants believe this case is in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes any issue requires further discussion, the Examiner is respectfully asked to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter may be promptly resolved. The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due in connection with this Amendment other than the fee of \$120 for one month's extension of time. However, if any fees are necessary to complete this communication, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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